

to this day. These decades of nonprofit volunteerism provided Byrd with valuable experience in youth leadership, team building, and developing effective educational and training programs. She has also furthered her nonprofit education through various training and courses over the years, and she earned a lifetime credential from California Community Colleges.

As an independent nonprofit consultant, Byrd Lochtie specializes in helping community leaders understand and be more effective in their roles, including working together to develop strategies to advance their missions. She has been a key partner and trainer for the Northern California Association of Nonprofits fostering learning, mentoring, relationship building, and excellence in leadership through monthly board leadership roundtables and introduction to board service workshops for many years.

Byrd remains highly engaged with a variety of local organizations, including the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County, Children's Authors Festival, the Humboldt County Human Rights Commission, United Way, Girl Scouts, Eureka City Schools Board of Trustees, the Eureka and Arcata Community Recycling Centers, and more.

Mr. Speaker, Byrd Lochtie's commitment to bettering her community through civic engagement and empowering leadership in others is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to her.

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday evening, I spoke via Skype with a number of young people in Pittsburgh who participated in the Congressional App Challenge in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, which I have the honor to represent. I had the opportunity to commend all of them for participating in this year's App Challenge, and I announced the winning App in the 14th District competition.

The Congressional App Challenge is a competition held each year in many congressional districts throughout the country. The Congressional App Challenge provides an opportunity for students who create their own apps for mobile, tablet, or computer devices to compete with other students and receive feedback from leading experts in the field. It's a great way for Congress to get kids interested in computer programming and technology-related careers. That's good for them, and it's good for our economy, which will depend more and more on such skills in the coming years.

This is the first year I have had the pleasure of being involved with the Congressional App Challenge, and I hope there will be many more years to come. Events like this one serve to raise public awareness of the importance and value of quality STEM education programs.

I would like to recognize the 14th District's outstanding student coders for 2017. The team from Montour High School consisting of Macen Perkins, Shane O'Malley, Derek

Wassel, and Logan Hickey created an app that teaches students that coding languages are easy to understand and very fun with some time and practice. The team from Shadyside Academy consisting of Nick Zana, Fuad Youssef, Peter Wang, and Henry Friedlander created an app that executes all of the main functions of a planner, student ID, and document database. I am very proud of them all.

The winner of year's 14th Congressional District App Challenge was the team from Shadyside Academy. Their app will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol and shown on the U.S. House of Representatives web site. They will also be invited to the House of Representatives' Code Demo Day reception in Washington in the coming months. In addition, Carnegie Mellon University has offered to give the 14th District App Challenge winners a tour of its facilities. This is a great opportunity for these students to explore the campus and to learn just how far their interest in coding can take them.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the judges for this competition: Josh Lucas, co-founder of Work Hard Pittsburgh, Dr. Alexandros Labrinidis, professor at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Computing and Information, and Dr. Illah Nourbakhsh, professor at the Carnegie Mellon University's Robotics Institute and director of the CREATE Lab.

I would also like to thank the University of Pittsburgh for hosting tonight's event—and Carnegie Mellon University for hosting the winners for a tour of its facilities. These universities' support for the App Challenge speaks volumes about their commitment to education and the local community.

Finally, I want to commend all of the participants in this year's App Challenge. I hope that the recognition will, in some small way, demonstrate to these young coders how much we value their efforts and skill. It is my hope that the students who participated in this year's competition will carry their interest in coding with them throughout their lives. I also hope that this competition and others like it across the country will continue to grow and attract many other local promising coders.

PROCLAMATION FOR DR. KEITH E. BAIRD

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation for Dr. Keith E. Baird:

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the leadership and service of Dr. Keith E. Baird; and

Whereas, Dr. Keith E. Baird was born on January 20, 1923 in Barbados, West Indies, he came to the United States in 1947 and began his college studies at Columbia University studying Spanish, Romance Philology and Linguistics, where he earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees. He earned his doctoral degree in Sociolinguistics from the Union Graduate Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio; and

Whereas, Dr. Baird was an educator, author, advocate and administrator, he served

and led our nation in many different roles. As a founding member of the African American Teachers Association in the late sixties, he proved to be a key actor in the nascent community control movement in Ocean Hill-Brownsville, Brooklyn, New York. As a steadfast pillar of our community, pioneered the teaching methods of 14 different languages in high schools and colleges. He was a community leader involved in the civic and educational direction of thousands in our nation. Along with his wife, Mrs. Mary A. Twining Baird, they educated us through the literary master piece "Sea Island Roots: The African Presence in the Carolinas and Georgia"; and Whereas, Dr. Baird was lauded as a "scholar's scholar and an educator's educator". He was a community builder who served my district without bounds. His influence, inspiration and motivation of many have helped to mold our district in becoming more inclusive. He has opened the minds and hearts of thousands; and

Whereas, he never asked for fame or fortune, nor found a job too small or too big; he gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life to uplift those in need by demonstrating unwavering commitment to educate, serve and goodwill; and

Whereas, he was a husband, a father, a brother and a friend; he was a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of humanity on an international scale; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia recognizes Dr. Keith E. Baird as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby attest to the 115th Congress that Dr. Keith E. Baird is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honor" by declaring Dr. Keith E. Baird, U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 12th day of August, 2017.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed one vote during a vote series on November 30, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted: No on Roll Call No. 645, on the question of agreeing to the resolution (H. Res. 635), providing for consideration of H.R. 4182, the Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2017; and H.R. 1699, the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2017.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for Roll Call votes 653 and 654 on Monday, December 4, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call vote 653 and Yea on Roll Call vote 654.